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Graduate Journalism at Illinois

Graduate Education

The graduate year is for students who want to study journalism after having completed their bachelor's degree. Some of our graduate students come with a background in journalism and want advanced training. But most enter the master's degree program with an undergraduate degree in some other subject with little or no journalism experience. For them the master's degree program is an opportunity to learn professional journalism skills in a concentrated period of study, either in the news-editorial (print) or broadcast journalism sequence. The accent is on practical training for satisfying careers and positions of responsibility and leadership.

Students ordinarily begin in mid-August with a pre-registration orientation week, which includes a crash course (or refresher) in basic



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news writing. This is followed by the fall and spring semesters and by enrollment in the summer session.

The news-editorial sequence is for those who are preparing for jobs on newspapers, magazines and other print media of news and information. Broadcast journalism students learn the techniques and technology of reporting, writing and editing news for audio or visual presentation. Both groups work closely with instructors who have had many years of experience as reporters, editors, producers and news directors.

Only about 30 master's degree students are enrolled so that classes are small and individual attention easy.

Those who have worked as journalists, and want to return for further education that will improve their opportunities for advancement into better jobs, may design individual programs to meet their special needs. There are opportunities for advanced practice in specialized fields such as science, business and economics, the judicial system and sports reporting.

Academic excellence and professional training are equally important at Illinois. The journalism program is not a trade school, nor is it taught in an ivory tower hidden away from the sticky problems of the changing world of mass communications. The communications library in Gregory Hall, the home of the journalism department, is part of the third-largest university library system (exceeded only by Harvard and Yale).

Recognizing the serious under-representation of blacks, Hispanics and other minorities in news media jobs, the University of Illinois makes a special effort to enroll minority students in the graduate journalism program.

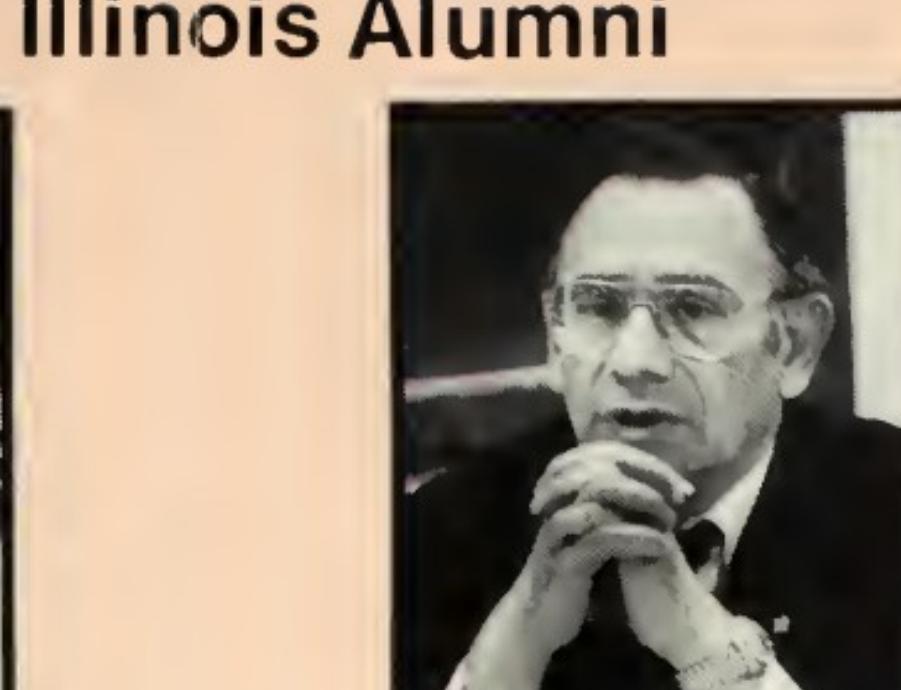
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"The University of Illinois is one of the finest universities in the nation . . . one of the best buys in higher education today."

—The New York Times
Selective Guide to Colleges, 1982.



Anne Cusack, Chicago Tribune photographer, was Illinois Journalist of the Year in 1982.



Roger Ebert, movie critic



Hal Bruno, director of political coverage, ABC

Some Illinois Alumni

"In our society, in our time, the journalist has come to sit above the salt. To me it is the most exciting, demanding, most thoroughly satisfying of all human occupations. We may die of tensions, but never of boredom."

—Eric Sevareid

Hans Massaquoi, managing editor, Ebony magazine



Steven Helle teaches communications law.

Graduate Curriculum

The starting point for both print and broadcast journalism students who do not have a background in journalism is an accelerated course in reporting and writing in the fall. All graduate students also participate in a fall semester seminar on contemporary issues in journalism.

News-editorial students learn about visual communications in an innovative team-taught class combining an introduction to graphic design and photojournalism. Broadcast students take a separate course in the studio and field production techniques and equipment of radio and television.

In the second semester—the spring semester—students in the two sequences continue their writing and newsgathering practice in separate courses. A news editing class is required for the print group. Also in the spring semester, all journalism graduate students are required to enroll in an introduction to the various theoretical approaches to mass communications.

The summer session is for individual reading, a master's project (a culminating work of journalism that is the equivalent of a master's thesis), and—in the case of the broadcast students—a television news course.

As their programs permit, students are encouraged to take courses in Law and Communications; in some specialized field of reporting, such as science or sports; in magazine article writing and magazine planning; in news media management; in media ethics; and perhaps in either the more extensive study of some aspect of communications theory or a course outside the College of Communications.

The faculty combines many years of varied professional experience with academic achievement in the world of communications. James W. Carey, Dean of the College of Communications, is an internationally acclaimed scholar.

Thomas B. Littlewood, the department head, was a political correspondent for the Chicago Sun-Times in Springfield and Washington for 22 years



Thomas Littlewood

The Faculty

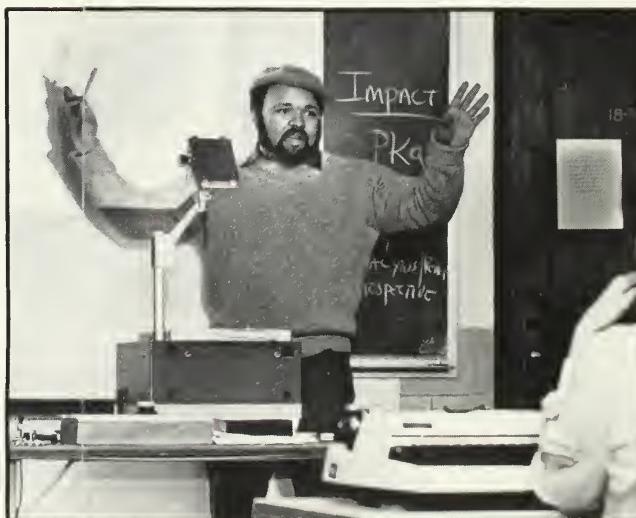


Sarah Toppins is on the broadcast journalism faculty.



before coming to Urbana-Champaign.

Robert Rucker's television news experience began at WHO-TV in Des Moines and later included an assignment as San Francisco correspondent for Cable News Network. Before entering teaching, Richard L. Stegeman was managing editor of newspapers in Boca Raton, Fla., and Kankakee, Ill. The others have all done what they teach and remain active in their fields of specialization.



Robert Rucker

Financial Aid

Financial aid is readily available for qualified graduate students in journalism. This includes generous special fellowships for minority students.

The most common form of aid is an assistantship. Graduate assistants receive a waiver of tuition and fees plus a salary of \$2,500 to \$5,000 for the academic year, in exchange for 10 to 20 hours of service per week. They may be assigned as research, teaching or laboratory assistants. Other graduate students are assigned to work at part-time jobs elsewhere in the University, making use of their journalism skills.



Positions that have been held by graduate students include editor of *University of Illinois News*, assistant editor of *Illinois Alumni News*, and assistant sports information director for women's sports, to name a few.



The University

Since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has earned a reputation as an institution of international stature.

Located in the adjoining cities of Urbana-Champaign, approximately 130 miles south of Chicago, the campus offers an environment ideally suited to the work of a major research institution. And with a combined population of about 100,000, Urbana-Champaign offers many of the advantages of city life.

Today, with more than 34,000 students, the Urbana-Champaign campus is known primarily for its achievements in research and graduate education. Each year the campus attracts some \$120 million in state, federal and other grants, contracts and private gifts.

A distinguished graduate faculty of more than 2,000 supervises and guides graduate study leading to advanced degrees in more than 100 fields of study. Scores of faculty are members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. Professor John Bardeen of the physics faculty won the Nobel Prize in physics twice—the only person ever to do so.

Another prime indicator of the campus' excellence is the success of its alumni. Recent surveys show more than 20 chief executives of Fortune 500 companies are alumni of the campus. Seven graduates won Nobel Prizes for the United States, and 16 won the Pulitzer Prize.

National surveys consistently rank the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign among the top 10 institutions in many fields of study, with several colleges and departments ranked among the top five.



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International Students

The graduate program at the University of Illinois is popular with foreign students who are competent in the English language and who want to learn American journalism skills.

In recent years, the University's global reputation has attracted many future journalists from developing countries. They have come from India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines and many other corners of the world to study and practice U.S.-style journalism.

Foreign students acquire reporting, writing and graphics arts skills in the regular classes. A new feature of the program, however, provides supplemental guidance in the American cultural and political system to make the practice assignments in central Illinois more meaningful. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required along with a TOEFL score of at least 600.

